

picture. The Silvereve appears to have decreased in abundance and the other, the New Holland Honeyeater, may have increased in range (though we noticed it only at Lake Wannamal). In the second group, the dry-country South-west birds, there is an impressive list of species which have pushed farther into the South-west since 1903 or have increased in abundance, on the basis of Whitlock's assessment. They are Galah, Smoker, Crested Bell-bird, Striated Field-wren, Singing Honeyeater, and Black-throated Butcher-bird.

There are three other species in this category, however, which seem to have shown some decline: Restless Flycatcher, Brown Flycatcher and Dusky Miner (last-named not seen by us). The sparse population of the Blue-and-white Wren appears to have remained unchanged in the area though this species has made a notable advance southward nearer the coast.

There is a balance, therefore, in favour of an extension of the dry-country fauna, but no noticeable withdrawal of the South-west humid country fauna is evident, and in some cases, as in the Western Thornbill, Scarlet Robin and Spinbill, there has been a remarkable constancy in species boundaries over the period. Within the limits of the surveys there has been no outstanding instance of any member of the South-west humid country fauna extending its range.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Plumage Variation in the Willy Wagtail.**—On December 28, 1951, at Naval Base, south of Fremantle, I saw a Willy Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) in irregular plumage. The bird was similar to the adults usually encountered, but had restricted white on the underparts. The underparts were black, except for the white upper breast, under tail coverts and a small portion of the adjacent abdomen.

—D. N. CALDERWOOD, Claremont.

**Larder Habit in the Magpie.**—Each morning six Magpies (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*) assemble at my back door for small pieces of raw meat. On February 25, 1952 they were there at 9 a.m. One young bird which feeds from my hand took a number of pieces and then made several attempts to hide the last one. First it tried to fit it into a crack in the brickwork, then into a small tin and finally it ran among some pot plants and left it there.

Later, in the afternoon about 5 p.m., they were there again and this magpie ran and recovered the piece of meat hidden in the morning. It came up to the door with it and swallowed it.

—(Miss) S. ELLIOTT, Nedlands.

**Senegal Turtle Dove at Goomalling.**—While travelling through Goomalling on December 21, 1951, I observed a party of eight Senegal Turtle Doves (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) feeding in the railway yard. Further investigation showed that the birds had